

Welcome to the Agricultural Research Service—one of the world's premiere scientific organizations.

- Our scientific [research](#) solves problems that affect Americans daily.
- We perform the research at about 100 [locations](#).
- We often form science [partnerships](#) with others.
- Every research project is coordinated through our [National Research Programs](#).

[More about us](#) | [Latest news](#)

Spotlights



Films with atmosphere

Better packaging for fresh-cut veggies and fruits.



Pining for profits

Helping growers get more from their pine crops.



Avian influenza

New tools to curb bird flu in poultry.



Freeing phosphorus

Newly designed enzyme unlocks a key nutrient.



Come work with us

Career paths from agronomy to zoology.



Science for Kids isn't just for kids

Students of any age can find lots to see, do and take.

About ARS

The **Agricultural Research Service (ARS)** is the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's](#) chief scientific research agency. Our job is finding solutions to agricultural problems that affect Americans every day, from field to table. Here's a few facts about the scope of our organization:

- 1,200 research projects within 22 National Programs
- 2,100 scientists
- 6,000 other employees
- 100 research locations including a few in other countries
- \$1.1 billion fiscal year 2005 budget

Mission

ARS conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination to:

- ensure high-quality, safe food, and other agricultural products
- assess the nutritional needs of Americans
- sustain a competitive agricultural economy
- enhance the natural resource base and the environment, and
- provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole.

Vision

The ARS vision is to lead America towards a better future through agricultural research and information.

ARS & You

For a few examples of what we've done for you, see "[What Does the Agricultural Research Service Do for You?](#)"

Administrators

The ARS Administrator is Dr. Edward B. Knipling. Dr. Caird E. Rexroad, Jr. is the Associate Administrator, Research Programs and Dr. Antoinette A. Betschart is the Associate Administrator, Research Operations. For more information see [Biographical Sketches of our Administrators](#).

Research

We take great care in designing and organizing our research effort, and we listen—and respond—to those with a stake in the outcome. More information can be found in [The Research Enterprise](#) and [The Big Picture of ARS Research](#).

Plans and Reports

We follow a strategic plan we develop to meet our stakeholders' needs and support USDA's mission. We check our progress in carrying out that plan, and we modify it as circumstances require. See all our [Plans and Reports](#).

Research, Education and Economics

ARS is one of four agencies in USDA's [Research, Education and Economics \(REE\)](#) mission area. The others are [Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service \(CSREES\)](#), [Economic Research Service \(ERS\)](#), and [National Agricultural Statistics Service \(NASS\)](#).

Budget

Since we are an agency of the Research, Education and Economics mission area of USDA, Congress establishes our annual budget on the basis of the President's proposed budget and research priorities. Our budget for fiscal year 2005 is about \$1.1 billion. See the [USDA-REE budget details](#).

Partnering

Our scientists frequently collaborate with research partners from universities, companies, other organizations and other countries. See more about [Partnering and Technology Transfer](#).

Find Places

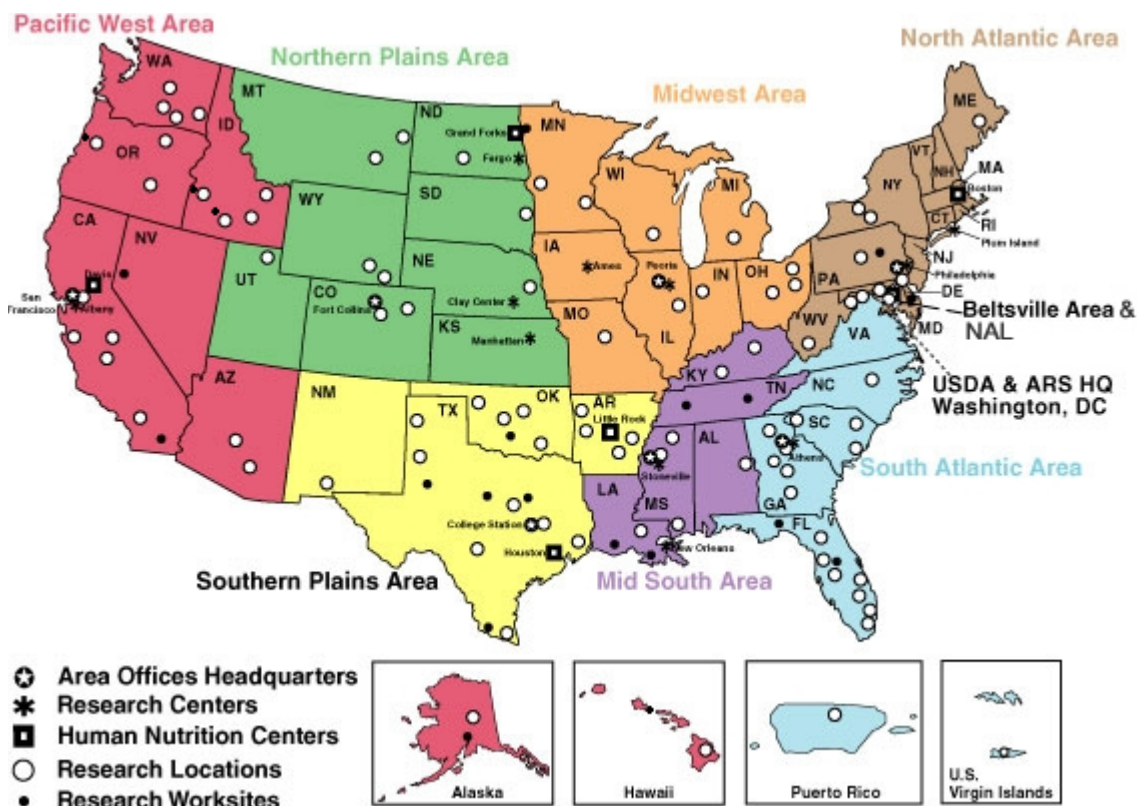
[Map](#)

[Search](#)

[Alphabetical](#)

[Organization](#)

Labels and Icons are hotlinked (clickable).



National Programs

ARS research is organized into 22 National Programs. These programs serve to bring coordination, communication, and empowerment to the more than [1200 research projects](#) carried out by ARS. The National Programs focus on the relevance, impact, and quality of ARS research.

Nutrition, Food Safety/Quality

- [Human Nutrition](#) (NP #107)
- [Food Safety \(animal and plant products\)](#) (NP #108)
- [Quality and Utilization of Agricultural Products](#) (NP #306)

Animal Production and Protection

- [Food Animal Production](#) (NP #101)
- [Animal Health](#) (NP #103)
- [Veterinary, Medical, and Urban Entomology](#) (NP #104)
- [Animal Well-Being and Stress Control Systems](#) (NP #105)
- [Aquaculture](#) (NP #106)

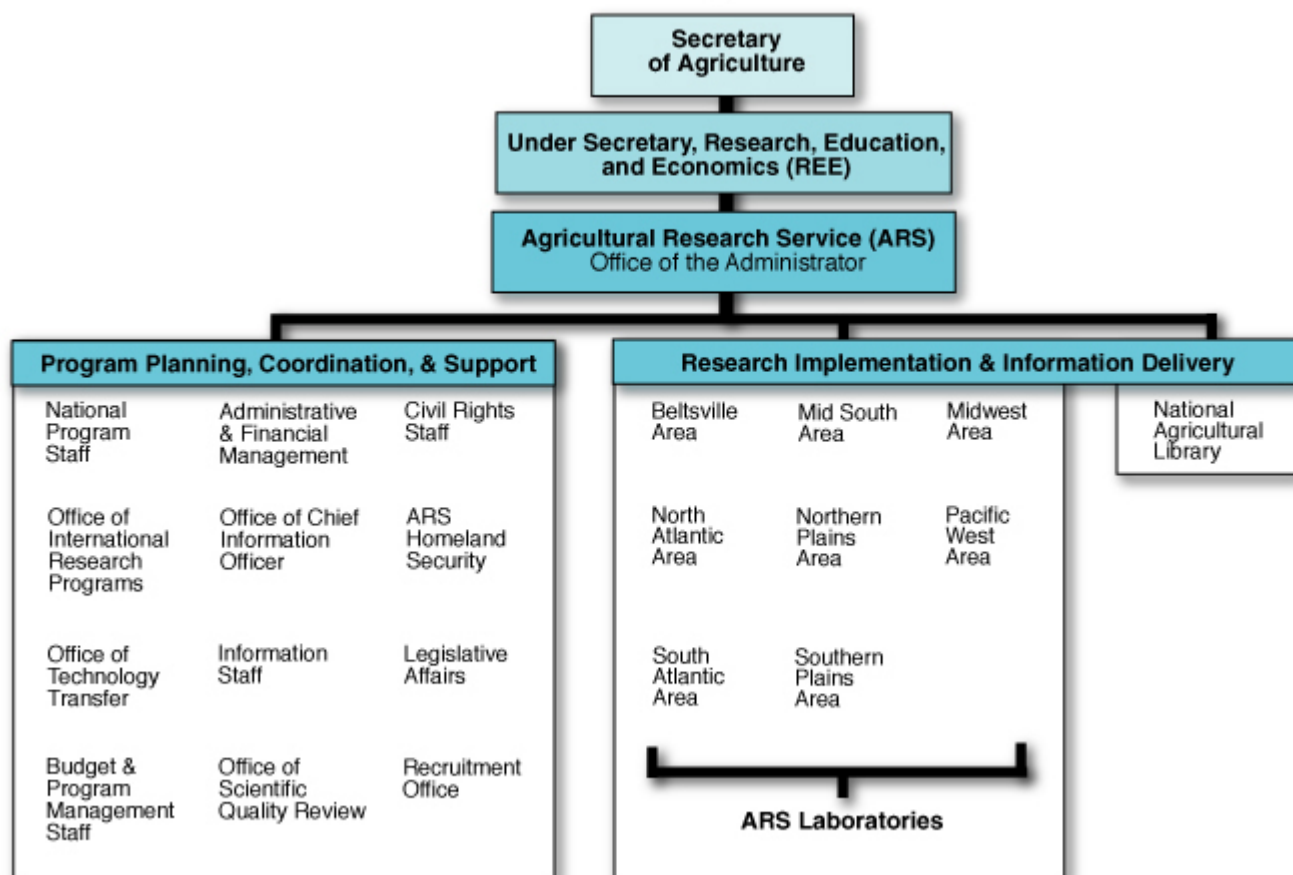
Natural Resources and Sustainable Agricultural Systems

- [Water Resource Management](#) (NP #201)
- [Soil Resource Management](#) (NP #202)
- [Air Quality](#) (NP #203)
- [Global Change](#) (NP #204)
- [Rangeland, Pasture, and Forages](#) (NP #205)
- [Manure and Byproduct Utilization](#) (NP #206)
- [Integrated Agricultural Systems](#) (NP #207)
- [Bioenergy and Energy Alternatives](#) (NP #307)

Crop Production and Protection

- [Plant Genetic Resources, Genomics and Genetic Improvement](#) (NP #301)
- [Plant Biological and Molecular Processes](#) (NP #302)
- [Plant Diseases](#) (NP #303)
- [Crop Protection and Quarantine](#) (NP #304)
- [Crop Production](#) (NP #305)
- [Methyl Bromide Alternatives](#) (NP #308)

ARS Organization





Caird E. Rexroad, Jr.
Associate Administrator
Research Programs



Edward B. Knipling
Administrator



Antoinette A. Betschart
Associate Administrator
Research Operations

Administrator's Council Agricultural Research Service

Program Planning and Coordination (National Program Staff)



Steven M. Kappes
Deputy Administrator,
Animal Production & Protection



Ghassem R. Asrar
Deputy Administrator,
Natural Resources & Sustainable
Agricultural Systems



Judith B. St. John
Deputy Administrator,
Crop Production & Protection



Joseph T. Spence
Deputy Administrator,
Nutrition, Food Safety & Quality



Pai-Yei Whung
Director,
Office of International Research Programs

Area and NAL Directors



Wilbert H. Blackburn
Director,
Northern Plains Area



Steven R. Shafer
Director,
Midwest Area



Edgar G. King, Jr.
Director,
Mid South Area

No
Photo
Available

Ronald F. Korcak
Acting Director,
Southern Plains Area



Darrell F. Cole
Director,
South Atlantic Area



Phyllis E. Johnson
Director,
Beltsville Area



Wilda H. Martinez
Director,
North Atlantic Area



Dwayne R. Buxton
Director,
Pacific West Area



Peter Young
Director,
National Agricultural Library

Program Support and Operations (Headquarters)



James H. Bradley
Deputy Administrator,
Administrative & Financial Management



Joseph S. Garbarino
Director,
Budget & Program Management Staff



Melinda L. McClanahan
Chief Information Officer



Jeff Hayes
Acting Director,
ARS Homeland Security



Sharon D. Drumm
Special Assistant to the Administrator
and Executive Secretary of the AC



Sandy Miller Hays
Director,
Information Staff

No
Photo
Available

Joseph Hairston
Acting Director,
Civil Rights Staff



Richard J. Brenner
Assistant Administrator,
Office of Technology Transfer



Karen Pearce
Senior Legislative Advisor,
Office of the Administrator

MISSION

The mission of the USDA / ARS programs at Lincoln, Nebraska is to improve the productivity, stability of production, sustainability and profitability of crop and livestock production systems in the Great Plains

The Lincoln Location consists of three (3) Research Units:



Grain, Forage & Bioenergy Research Unit



Midwest Livestock Insects Research Unit



Soil & Water Conservation Research Unit

The Lincoln Location is a part of the Northern Plains Area (NPA) of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), a Research, Education and Economics (REE) agency, and the main in-house research arm of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)



WELCOME TO THE GRAIN, FORAGE & BIOENERGY RESEARCH UNIT

Background: The Grain, Forage and Bioenergy Research Unit (GFBRU) is one of about 300 research units in the Agriculture Research Service (ARS), the principal research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Vision: A vibrant, sustainable agriculture economy that is producing high quality food and bioenergy for the USA.

Mission: Improve the productivity, stability of production, and profitability of wheat, sorghum, forage and biomass energy crops in the Central Great Plains and Midwest.

Strategy: Develop improved plant materials and management practices through basic and applied research in plant genetics, molecular biology, plant pathology, agronomy, and rangeland science. Research is currently focused on genetic improvement of grain quality for human and animal nutrition, forage and biomass quality and production for feed and bioenergy, and disease resistance in wheat and sorghum.

Location: Grain, Forage and Bioenergy Research Unit

USDA-ARS, 344 Keim Hall

Univ. of Nebraska, P.O. Box 830937

Lincoln, NE 68583-0937

402-472-1490



Welcome to Midwest Livestock Insects Research Unit

Background The Midwest Livestock Insects Research Unit (MLIRU) is one of about 300 research units in the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the principal research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Mandate The MLIRU is responsible for developing stable fly management strategies and to provide leadership for interdisciplinary teams and collaborative partnerships to facilitate research and technology transfer.

Vision Provider of Sustainable Solutions to Fly Problems Impacting Livestock Producers and the Public.

Mission To develop Stable Fly management strategies based on a better understanding of fly biology, habitat ecology and population dynamics.

Strategy Determine the sources of Stable Flies on rangeland and confined cattle and gain a better understanding of Stable Fly population dynamics by elucidating their genetic structure throughout North America and internationally, where possible.

Spotlights



Project Takes Swat at Cattle-Biting Flies

Project aims to clean house on filth flies.



Welcome to Soil & Water Conservation Research Unit

Background

The Soil and Water Conservation Research Unit (SWCRU) is one of about 300 research units in the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the principal research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Mandate

The SWCRU is responsible for addressing questions, and solving problems, through research on crop production systems that have regional and national implications to sustainability of crop productivity and conservation of soil, water, and air resources.

Vision

A productive agriculture that conserves soil, water, and air resources.

Mission

Develop economically and environmentally sustainable integrated crop and livestock management systems that...

Conserve and efficiently use natural resources and...

Disseminate useful information and technologies to our customers.

Strategy

Stimulate participation of clientele in identifying priority research to address the need for efficient use of natural resources and purchased inputs in agricultural production systems to make agriculture more effective, more efficient, more profitable, and more integrated with the environment.

Location

Soil & Water Conservation Research Unit
120 Keim Hall
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE 68583-0934

(402) 472-1514